GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1557
ANSWERED ON:13.03.2002
INDIA S CELLULAR MARKET .
BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India`s cellular market is expanding not to its satisfaction;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of the steps being taken by the BSNL to expand wireless phone in the country;

(d) whether WLL of BSNL is discouraging the cellular service providers to expand; and

(e) if so, the steps taken to allow a level playing field?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

(a) Sir, post National Telecom Policy-1999 (NTP-99) and migration of the Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS) Operators to the revenue sharing regime of NTP-99, the CMTS has experienced a healthy growth.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited(BSNL) has plans to provide CMTS to all District Headquarters , wherever permitted by the Government, in two phases throughout the country (except Mumbai and Delhi) covering important Towns, Highways and Railway Routes. In addition, BSNL has plans to provided Wireless Phones through WLL (Wireless in Local Loop)So far 64,500 lines of WLL Code Division Multiple Access (CDMA) System and 16,750 lines of WLL COR-DECT system have already been commissioned i urban areas of the country. There is further plan to provide 16.6 lakhs of Wireless Telephones in BSNL network for both urban and rural areas of the country during 2002-03.

(d) No, Sir. The growth of CMTS is quite healthy.

(e) Does not arise in view of (d) above.